

Food subsidy

†1078. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of food subsidy was fixed at 24,000 crore rupees for 2006-07;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said amount of subsidy is likely to increase as wheat is being imported into the country; and

(d) if so, the assessment made with regard to the quantum of amount expected to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) As per Budget Estimates (2006-07) an amount of Rs. 23,986.21 crore has been allocated for food subsidy.

(c) and (d) Import of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat at a weighted average price of US \$ 205.31 per tonne has been undertaken to meet the shortfall in domestic wheat procurement as part of MSP operations. The imported purchase prices are broadly comparable to the domestic open market wheat prices and is likely to entail an additional subsidy of about Rs. 775 crore.

Corruption in PDS

†1079. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is rampant corruption in centrally-funded programmes especially in the Public Distribution System in absence of proper monitoring mechanism;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.